Vocab. Word:

Skywalkers- people that were famous for their agility and lack of fear of heights

The United States was rapidly becoming an urbanized nation. In 1920, the national census revealed that for the first time, over half of all Americans lived in communities with a population of twenty-five hundred or more. These statistics show the general shift in population from rural to urban areas. Big cities experienced major increases in population. By 1930, New York City had a population of more than a million! Around the time of this major increase in New York City, two very important buildings were created. The Chrysler Building is in midtown Manhattan, New York City, at Lexington Ave. between 42d and 43d Street. It was commissioned by Walter P. Chrysler and designed by William Van Alen. It was built in 1926-1930. This steel-framed office building of 77 stories and 1,048 feet tall was the world’s tallest building until the completion of the Empire State Building in 1931. The Empire State Building is an 82 story skyscraper built of steel, concrete, and limestone. The Empire State Building grew at a pace of almost a story a day. Ironworkers balanced along the steel beams high above the streets. The majority of the ironworkers were members of a Canadian Mohawk Indian tribe. Known as skywalkers, they were famous for their agility and lack of fear of heights. For 40 years, until the construction of the World Trade Center in1972, the Empire State Building was the tallest building in the world.



http://y2u.co.uk/New\_York\_USA/Images\_No/NYC\_Empire\_State\_Building\_1.jpg

http://www.howardmodels.com/Architectural-Renderings/Chrysler/pic1.jpg

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